

FY 2009 Annual Report for Grant Programs

The Grants Section of Arizona State Parks is responsible for managing eight grant programs administered by the Arizona State Parks Board (Board). Typically more than \$32 million is available annually to Arizona communities, resource managers and agencies to preserve and enhance Arizona's significant natural open space, cultural and recreational resources. Programs include three components of the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund: The Historic Preservation (HP) Grant Fund Program, the Trails Grant Fund Program and the Local, Regional and State Parks (LRSP) Grant Fund Program. In addition to the Heritage Fund Programs, the Grants Section also manages the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program, the federal Recreational Trails Grant Program (RTP), the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) Grant Program, the Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) Grant Program, and the Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Grant Fund Program.

Grant administration is accomplished through the development of application guidelines and a priority rating system, the execution of Participant Agreements and Preservation Conservation Easement Deeds with grantees, and the subsequent monitoring of administrative compliance, expended funds, and project work.

To assist with this responsibility, the Grants staff works with the following advisory committees: the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC), the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC), the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG), the Arizona State Commission on Trails (ASCOT), and the Conservation Acquisition Board (CAB) to develop policies and criteria that enable the competitive, equitable distribution of grant funds. The advisory committees also review eligible project applications and make recommendations for grant funding levels for consideration and final action by the Arizona State Parks Board.

Traditionally, the Board reviews staff's recommendations for awarding grants from the previous fiscal year grant cycle to eligible projects in September of each year. The availability of funding in each program is based upon the actual amount of revenue received in the prior fiscal year in each fund.

During fiscal year 2009 Arizona State Parks suffered severe budget sweeps. On February 20, 2009 the Board authorized the Executive Director to take necessary measures to address the budget issues, which included but was not limited to suspending or canceling grants. Through this authority 22 active grants totaling \$3,854,818 were cancelled, 42 were suspended totaling \$6,145,099, and 4 were closed totaling \$18,353.

On April 3, 2009, following an updated report on the status of the budget and grants, the Board reaffirmed their decision to cancel the grants that had not started,

suspend the grants that were 1-90% complete, and to allow the grants that were 91-99% complete time to finish and close their projects.

In August 2009, the Board voted unanimously to reinstate the funding of the suspended Heritage Fund Grants. This action took place following the favorable review by the State Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the approval of the Environmental Budget Reconciliation Bill.

Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion)

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a Federal program to help the states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trails use. Arizona State Parks is responsible for administering RTP funds in Arizona. Forty-four percent (44%) of Arizona's RTP funds are available for competitive motorized trails project grants. Arizona's competitive grant program provides funds for all kinds of motorized trail uses, including snow-mobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, support facilities, and education programs.

A total of three projects totaling \$521,560 were awarded for the FY 2009 RTP grant cycle. These awards were approved by the Board on September 11, 2009.

Table 1. RTP Fund Grants Awarded by the Parks Board for the FY 2009 Grant Program.

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Award
BLM – Hassayampa FO	Table Mesa/hieroglyphics OHV Area Dev	\$ 203,815
BLM-Arizona Strip FO	GCPNM Travel Info/Signage Development	41,445
Town of Eagar	Saffel Canyon Trail Renovations	276,300
TOTAL 3 PROJECTS		\$ 521,560

Table 2. RTP Fund Grants Awarded by County in FY 2009.

County	Number of Grants Awarded	Grant Award
Maricopa	1	\$ 203,815
Mohave	1	41,445
Apache	1	276,300
TOTAL 3 PROJECTS		\$ 521,560

Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Growing Smarter Act consists of comprehensive municipal, county and State Land Department land use planning and zoning reforms, provides for the

acquisition and preservation of open spaces and establishes a program for continuing study and consideration of pertinent issues relating to public land use policies, all in order to further the best interests of our citizens by protecting our natural heritage and wisely managing the growth of our communities.

The purpose of the Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Grant Program is to fund grants from monies in the Land Conservation Fund “to conserve open spaces in or near urban areas and other areas experiencing high growth pressures.” This is accomplished by awarding grants for the purchase or lease of State Trust land that has been classified as suitable for conservation purposes by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD).

The passage of Proposition 303 on November 3, 1998 established an annual \$20 million appropriation by the Arizona State Legislature from the General Fund to the Land Conservation Fund. This annual appropriation began in FY2001 and continues through FY 2011. With the passage of Senate Bill 1071 in 2003, State Parks will transfer \$2 million annually to the Livestock and Crop Conservation Fund administered by the Department of Agriculture. As a result, an \$18 million annual appropriation is available for the Growing Smarter grant program. The amount available revenue for grants for FY 09 from previous years carryover and new revenue was \$95,680,785.

Table 3. Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Fund Grants Awarded by the Parks Board for the FY 2009 Grant Program.

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Award
Phoenix	Phoenix Sonoran Preserve- Priority 2C - 294.567acres	\$ 5,258,000
Scottsdale	McDowell Sonoran Preserve – 398.91 acres	3,575,000
Pima County	Valencia Archaeological Site	517,000
TOTAL 3 PROJECTS		\$ 9,350,000

Table 4. Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Fund Grants Awarded by County for the FY 2009 Grant Program.

County	Number of Grants Awarded	Grant Award
Maricopa	2	\$ 8,833,000
Pima	1	517,000
TOTAL 3 PROJECTS		\$ 9,350,000

Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF)

The Arizona State Legislature established the LEBSF in 1981 to provide grants to County Boards of Supervisors for the purpose of supporting boating law enforcement and safety activities. Revenue is derived from a percentage of the watercraft license tax collected by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Funds are allocated to counties annually based on boating law enforcement needs.

The Statute (A.R.S. § 5-383) specifies that LEBSF funds be granted for boating law enforcement, personnel, equipment, and training. In the past, due to limited available funding, LEBSF monies were limited to be spent on boating law enforcement personnel and /or equipment needs. Eligible equipment included only items to make a patrol boat minimally operational, such as the boat trailer, motor, radios, lights, and first aid equipment.

In March 2007, the BOARD approved the addition of the following specific items that are allowable under Statute (A.R.S. § 5-383): GPS, sonar/radar equipment, diving equipment, portable intoxication equipment, hazard buoys and signs, warning devices, navigational aid devices, accident investigation tools, personal protection equipment, mobile data terminals, training and operation and maintenance (specifically repair costs to keep the boat and allowable equipment functional).

The amount available for distribution from FY 2009 revenue is \$ 1,804,423.

Table 5. LEBSF Fund Grants Awarded by County in FY 2009.

County	Number of Grants Awarded	Grant Award
Coconino	1	191,249
Gila	1	153,767
LaPaz	1	302,222
Maricopa	1	297,320
Mohave	1	597,417
Navajo	1	68,459
Yuma	1	193,989
TOTAL 7 PROJECTS		\$ 1,804,423

Summary of all Grant Programs:

Table 6. Summary of 2009 Grant Awards for all Grant Programs

Program	Amount Available	Number Of Grants Approved	Amount Awarded
Local, Regional, State Parks Heritage Grant Fund Program (LRSP) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	\$ -0-	0	\$ -0-
Historic Preservation Grant Fund Program (HP) (Second Cycle 08) (First Cycle 09)	\$ -0-	0 0	\$ -0- \$
Trails Heritage Grant Fund Program	\$ -0-	0	\$ -0-
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$ 647,923	3	\$ 521,560
State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF)	\$ -0-	0	\$ -0-
*Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF)	\$ 1,804,423	7	\$ 1,804,423
Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Grant Fund	\$ 95,680,785	3	\$ 9,350,000
Total	\$ 98,133,131	13	\$ 11,675,983

Table 7. FY 2009 Grant Program Funds Distribution by County

County	Number of Awarded Grants	Sum of Grant Grant Awards
Apache	1	\$ 276,300
Coconino	1	\$ 191,249
Gila	1	\$ 153,767
La Paz	1	\$ 302,222
Maricopa	4	\$ 9,334,135
Mohave	2	\$ 638,862
Navajo	1	\$ 68,459
Pima	1	\$ 517,000
Yuma	1	\$ 193,989
Total	13	\$ 11,675,983